

**IN THE DRAWINGS:**

The attached annotated sheets show changes to Figures 3 and 4.

Replacement sheets of Figures 3 and 4 also are attached.

## **REMARKS**

In the Office Action, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Kiichiro (JP 2003-329143).

Figures 3 and 4 were also objected to. Therefore, an annotated sheet showing changes to Figures 3 and 4 labeled as “Prior Art”, and a replacement sheet of Figures 3 and 4 also is attached.

The invention as defined in the amended claim adopts the structure of “the axial section of the annular member including a first axial section opposite to the radial section, and a second axial section thinner than the first axial section and continued to the radial section.”

Further, the invention of the amended claim adopts the structure of “the sealing lip being disposed in a vicinity of a corner section located between the radial section and the second axial section, and the seal body having a portion extending from a root of the sealing lip to a position to reach a stepped section between the first axial section and the second axial section to cover the second axial section.”

Consequently, with the present invention, there is no need to provide the sealing body up to the end section (the opposite side of the corner section) of

the axial section, so that the amount of a wasted part of the sealing body (forming material) can be reduced (see paragraph [0025] in the specification).

Further, with the present invention, there is no need to provide the sealing body up to the end section (the opposite section to the corner section) of the axial section, so that the inside diameter of the annular member needs not be formed smaller as much as the thickness of the sealing body, as required in the conventional case, and if the annular member is formed by die forming, there is no possibility of increasing the load for the die (see paragraph [0026] in the specification).

Moreover, with the present invention, the second axial section is thinner than the first axial section, thereby to suppress causing of the part, which covers the second axial section in the sealing body, to contact with the circumferential surface of the annular hole. Consequently, causing a high sliding resistance or pealing off of the sealing body can be suppressed.

Still further, the invention of the amended claim adopts the structure of “the seal body having a portion extending from a root of the sealing lip to a position to reach a stepped section between the first axial section and the second axial section to cover the second axial section”, thereby in forming the seal body, it

can be stopped with the rubber of the step section, so that occurrence of a malfunction, such as leakage of rubber, can be reduced.

In Kiichiro (JP 2003-329143), the axial direction (14a) of the annular member does not have the structure of “including a first axial section opposite to the radial section, and a second axial section thinner than the first axial section and continued to the radial section.”

In other words, the axial direction (14a) of the annular member of Kiichiro is structured in a constant wall thickness.

Further, the invention of Kiichiro has the structure wherein the sealing body (11) is provided up to near the end (opposite to the corner section) of the axial direction (14a).

Consequently, the invention of Kiichiro does not include the structure of the invention and cannot provide the same effects as provided by the present invention.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application should now be in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is in order, and such favorable action and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

However, if after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions or comments, she is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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